Public consultation on the establishment of a quantitative reduction headline target for marine litter

The aim of this consultation is to understand stakeholders' views on a range of actions and policies which could be undertaken in order to tackle the problem of marine litter. The results of the consultation will be used as one of the bases for formulating a Union-wide quantitative headline reduction target for marine litter. Please read the associated **background document** before responding to the questionnaire. Only a few of the questions are compulsory so please feel free to answer only those relevant to you.

Questions marked with an asterisk * require an answer to be given.

1. Information about you

1.1. *Your full name:* *

Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in consultation with other involved ministries.

1.2. *Your contact email address:*

Hermien.busschbach@minienm.nl

1.3. *I'm replying as a(n):* *

- ○ Interested individual/consumer
- ○ Sectoral representative
- ○ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ○ Other association
- ○ Academic/scientist
- ○ Local/regional authority
- X National authority
- ○ International body
- ○ Other

1.4. *If you are responding on behalf of a sector, please specify your area of activity:*

- (x) Waste management
- ( ) Plastic producer/recyclers
- ( ) Fisheries
- (x) Shipping
- ( ) Port authority
- ( ) Retail
- ( ) Tourism/recreation
- ( ) Other sector

1.5. *If you represent another sector please specify your area of activity:*

1.6. *If you selected "other", please specify in what capacity you are responding to the consultation:*

1.7. *If responding on behalf of an organisation/association/authority, please provide the name:*

1.8. *If responding on behalf of an organisation/association/authority, please specify all countries represented by your membership:*

- [ ] AT - Austria
- [ ] BE - Belgium
- [ ] BG - Bulgaria
- [ ] CY - Cyprus
- [ ] CZ - Czech Republic
- [ ] DE - Germany
- [ ] DK - Denmark
- [ ] EE - Estonia
- [ ] EL - Greece
- [ ] ES - Spain
- [ ] FI - Finland
- [ ] FR - France
- [ ] HR - Croatia
- [ ] HU - Hungary
- [ ] IE - Ireland
- [ ] IT - Italy
- [ ] LT - Lithuania
- [ ] LU - Luxembourg
- [ ] LV - Latvia
- [ ] MT - Malta
- [x] NL - Netherlands
- [ ] PL - Poland
- [ ] PT - Portugal
- [ ] RO - Romania
- [ ] SE - Sweden
- [ ] SI - Slovenia
- [ ] SK - Slovakia
- [ ] UK - United Kingdom
- [ ] Other

1.9. *If another country is represented by your organisation, please specify the country/countries concerned.*

1.10. *How would you prefer your contribution to be published on the Commission website?**

*

- (x) Under the name indicated (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- ( ) Anonymously (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution except my name/the name of my organisation and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- ( ) Not at all - keep it confidential (The contribution will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

1.11. *How well informed are you about marine litter?*

*

- (x) Very well informed
- ( ) Fairly well informed
- ( ) Not very well informed
- ( ) Not at all informed

2. Questionnaire

2.1. **Assessment criteria:** *Throughout the questionnaire, you will be asked to assess various actions aimed at reducing the presence and impact of marine litter. What are the most relevant criteria when assessing such actions?*

Please assess the criteria below in terms of relevance on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not relevant at all", and 5 being "very relevant".

a: 1
b: 2
c: 3
d: 4
e: 5
f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.1.1. Feasibility					X	
2.1.2. Cost					X	
2.1.3. Effectiveness					X	
2.1.4. Transferability/replicability in different marine regions			X			
2.1.5. Impact on stakeholders				X		
2.1.6. Respect for the polluter pays principle				X		

2.2. *Are there other relevant criteria which should be used when assessing actions aimed at reducing the presence and impact of marine litter? If so, please list these criteria:*

commitment of the various sectors

2.3. **Negative impacts:** Below *you will find a list of potential negative impacts of marine litter. How problematic are these impacts?*

Please assess these impacts on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not problematic" and 5 being "very problematic".

a: 1
b: 2
c: 3
d: 4
e: 5
f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.3.1. Entanglement of marine species in discarded fishing gear, ropes and other litter			x			
2.3.2. Ingestion of litter by birds, fish and other species			x			
2.3.3. Health risk for humans due to consumption of affected seafood				x		
2.3.4. Spreading of invasive species						x
2.3.5. Negative impacts on coastal tourism		x				
2.3.6. Damage to (fishing) vessels		x				
2.3.7. Costs associated with beach clean up			x			

2.4. *Are there other relevant negative impacts of marine litter which should be considered? If so, please list these impacts:*

* potential risk to human health
* entanglement is not a problem on population level, but for individual species it is.
* marine litter is a resource in the wrong place
* oceans are the last medium in the waste chain and a cleaning-up exercise of the global oceans system is not feasible.

2.5. **Consumers:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by consumers with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1
b: 2
c: 3
d: 4
e: 5
f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.5.1. Reject single use plastic bags and bottles and use re-usable alternatives				x		
2.5.2. Drink tap water instead of bottled water/other bottled beverages				x		
2.5.3. Give greater consideration to the packaging used when making purchasing choices				x		
2.5.4. Separate waste at home and participate in systems for separate collection and deposit refund systems				x		
2.5.5. Avoid littering (either on the beach, at sea or elsewhere)					x	
2.5.6. Avoid flushing sanitary waste down the toilet					x	
2.5.7. Participate in organised clean-ups		x				

2.6. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by consumers to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

The Netherlands follows in her packaging policy the principle that the central government sets a framework and goals. So that those parties that are responsible for the implementation are able to choose the instruments they think work best.

2.7. **Local/sub-national authorities:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by local/sub-national authorities with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1

b: 2

c: 3

d: 4

e: 5

f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.7.1. Invest in research and monitoring activities to identify the types and sources of marine litter			x			
2.7.2. Map existing relevant measures already being implemented and analyse gaps to be filled				x		
2.7.3. Establish action plans and/or targets for marine litter prevention and clean-up initiatives				x		
2.7.4. Implement awareness-raising campaigns on the sources and impacts of marine litter			x			
2.7.5. Develop initiatives to encourage/incentivise source separation				x		
2.7.6. Develop initiatives to encourage/incentivise consumption of tap water				x		
2.7.7. Install public water dispensers				x		
2.7.8. Introduce (seasonal) bans on plastic bags in coastal cities, and/or bans on plastic bottles during beach events and concerts		x				
2.7.9. Avoid plastic packaging in public procurement			x			
2.7.10. Organise clean-up events		x				

2.7.11. Ensure enforcement of existing public littering rules			X			
2.7.12. Ensure adequate availability of public litter bins				X		
2.7.13. Take action to ensure regulatory compliance of landfills and eradicate illegal dumpsites					X	
2.7.14. Cooperate with tourist sector, waste managers and retailers					X	
2.7.15. Exchange best practices with other municipalities					X	
2.7.16. Develop initiatives to promote the circular economy, diverting waste from landfill to recycling or energy recovery					X	
2.7.17. Cooperate in initiatives to promote fishermen as 'guardians of the sea', including monitoring and fishing for litter activities (collecting litter in large bags while fishing)				X		

2.8. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by local/sub-national authorities to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

* not only ensure availability of public litter bins but also proper waste management (empty bins regularly)
* promote alternatives for party balloons (use different items at events, different materials,
* agreements between (local and regional) river town authorities and NGO's to prevent and/or clean up litter in waterways/rivers\
* measures relating to cigarette buds.

2.9. Which (if any) of the possible actions for local/sub-national authorities mentioned above are also of relevance for national authorities?

- [x] Invest in research and monitoring activities to identify the types and sources of marine litter
- [x] Map existing relevant measures already being implemented and analyse gaps to be filled
- [x] Establish action plans and/or targets for marine litter prevention and clean-up initiatives
- [x] Implement awareness-raising campaigns on the sources and impacts of marine litter
- [x] Develop initiatives to encourage/incentivise source separation
- [x] Develop initiatives to encourage/incentivise consumption of tap water
- [x] Install public water dispensers
- [ ] Introduce (seasonal) bans on plastic bags in coastal cities, and/or bans on plastic bottles during beach events and concerts
- [x] Avoid plastic packaging in public procurement
- [x] Organise clean-up events
- [x] Ensure enforcement of existing public littering rules
- [x] Ensure adequate availability of public litter bins
- [x] Take action to ensure regulatory compliance of landfills and eradicate illegal dumpsites
- [x] Cooperate with tourist sector, waste managers and retailers
- [x] Exchange best practices with other municipalities
- [x] Develop initiatives to promote the circular economy, diverting waste from landfill to recycling or energy recovery
- [x] Cooperate in initiatives to promote fishermen as ‘guardians of the sea’, including monitoring and fishing for litter activities (collecting litter in large bags while fishing)

2.10. **National authorities:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by national authorities with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

a: 1

b: 2

c: 3

d: 4

e: 5

f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.10.1. Establish monitoring systems and environmental targets with a view to reducing litter inputs to the marine environment				x		
2.10.2. Share information, and develop knowledge-sharing platforms with authorities from neighbouring states, local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders on amounts and sources of marine litter (particularly from monitoring in the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive)				x		
2.10.3. Assist local authorities and NGOs in monitoring the effectiveness of measures aimed at combatting marine litter				x		
2.10.4. Provide guidance and resources to help local authorities select and implement measures to address marine litter				x		
2.10.5. Promote best practice and encourage NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders to launch relevant initiatives to improve behaviour, prevent littering and support clean-up initiatives				x		
2.10.6. Support the development of Action Plans on marine litter within the framework of the four relevant Regional Seas Conventions (Barcelona, Bucharest, HELCOM and OSPAR)				x		

2.11. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by national authorities to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

* development and application of education material for use on/ by schools on different levels

* support initiatives for improvement of efficiency in the plastic cycle (from production to consumption and recycling) and avoid leakages

2.12. **EU policymakers:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by EU policymakers with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1

b: 2

c: 3

d: 4

e: 5

f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.12.1. Establish target(s) for marine litter reduction			X			
2.12.2. Support the actions of local and Member State authorities by funding research				X		
2.12.3. Support the actions of local and Member State authorities by facilitating exchange of information, experience and best practice (e.g. hosting a database of published marine litter survey information, guidance on marine litter monitoring, common recording templates, expanded marine litter toolbox etc.) *The marine litter toolbox referred in this question can be accessed at:* ***http://www.marine-litter-conference-berlin.info/tbdb.php***				X		
2.12.4. Facilitate coordination efforts across regional seas and support networking between authorities and other stakeholders				X		
2.12.5. Support development of Strategic Regional Action Plans on marine litter within the framework of the four relevant Regional Seas Conventions (Barcelona, Bucharest, HELCOM and OSPAR)				X		
2.12.6. Support international activities to combat marine litter (e.g. the Honolulu Strategy and marine debris reduction commitments in Rio+20)				X		
2.12.7. Establish a harmonised EU monitoring strategy for marine litter			X			
2.12.8. Extend and improve producer responsibility over the entire product lifecycle (e.g. optimisation of packaging and production including design for re-use, recycling, prevention, low material demand, etc.)		X				

2.13. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by EU policymakers to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

* introduce an European ban on microbeads in cosmetics
* support initiatives by the shipping and fisheries sectors to reduce the amount of litter entering the marine environment, either initiatives on board of vessels to prevent litter being discarded at sea, being properly disposed of in harbours
* promote research to develop technical means to remove litter from the sea
* stimulate more cross sectoral EU policy and make link to industrial policy and product design (eco-design).

2.14. **NGOs:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by non-governmental organisations with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1
b: 2
c: 3
d: 4
e: 5
f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.14.1. Establish action plans and/or targets for marine litter prevention and clean-up initiatives				x		
2.14.2. Implement awareness-raising campaigns on the sources and impacts of marine litter				x		
2.14.3. Organise clean-up events				x		
2.14.4. Share information with local authorities and other stakeholders on the amounts and sources of marine litter (particularly from monitoring in the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive)			x			
2.14.5. Assist local authorities in identifying target groups responsible for littering				x		
2.14.6. Launch relevant behavioural and preventive initiatives with other stakeholders				x		

2.15. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by NGOs to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

2.16. **Plastics industry:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by the plastics industry with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1

b: 2

c: 3

d: 4

e: 5

f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.16.1. Promote the development of products and packaging which use less (plastic) material				x		
2.16.2. Promote the development of products and packaging made from innovative materials which are easier to re-use or recycle and which degrade less harmfully in the marine environment				x		
2.16.3. Extend and improve producer responsibility over the entire product lifecycle (e.g. optimisation of packaging and production including design for re-use, recycling, prevention, low material demand etc.)		x				
2.16.4. Exchange information, knowledge and best practices on innovative technologies, production processes and sustainable plastic packaging products				x		
2.16.5. Promote and finance initiatives aimed at increasing recycling of plastics				x		
2.16.6. Promote and finance marine litter initiatives				x		
2.16.7. Incorporate eco-labelling criteria in product design				x		

2.17. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by the plastics industry to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

2.18. **Retail sector:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by the retail sector with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1

b: 2

c: 3

d: 4

e: 5

f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.18.1. Motivate and inform customers on sustainable consumption				x		
2.18.2. Develop, promote and participate in separate collection and deposit refund systems for plastic bottles and bags			x			
2.18.3. Promote the use of reduced, reusable or recyclable packaging in products, both upstream (through purchasing/procurement decisions) and down-stream (through promotion of such products to consumers)				x		
2.18.4. Commit to targets for reduction of plastic packaging				x		
2.18.5. Exchange ideas and best practices with other retailers				x		

2.19. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by the retail sector to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

2.20. **Tourism/recreational sector:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by the tourism/recreational sector with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1

b: 2

c: 3

d: 4

e: 5

f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.20.1. Sensitise tourists to the impacts of litter on the marine environment				X		
2.20.2. Provide eco-alternatives to plastic ashtrays and plastic cups on the beach			X			
2.20.3. Establish water dispensers in communal areas (e.g. hotel lobbies, beachfronts etc.)				X		
2.20.4. Participate in eco-tourism certification schemes					X	
2.20.5. Create and promote stewardship concepts such as adopt-a-beach *For example, the adopt-a-beach initiative in the Netherlands enables a school, beach-front business or other interested party to "adopt" a stretch of beach, and take responsibility for ensuring it is clean. For more information, see:* ***http://www.mybeach.info/eigen-mybeach/***					X	
2.20.6. Organise clean-up events				X		
2.20.7. Ensure adequate availability of litter bins					X	
2.20.8. Develop, promote and participate in separate collection and deposit refund systems for plastic bottles and bags			X			
2.20.9. Commit to targets for reduction of plastic packaging			X			
2.20.10. Exchange ideas and best practices					X	

2.21. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by the tourism/recreational sector to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

* ensure availability of public litter bins, but very important is to proper management for emptying.

2.22. **Waste management sector:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by the waste management sector with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1
b: 2
c: 3
d: 4
e: 5
f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.22.1. Inform, motivate and encourage citizens to improve source separation		x				
2.22.2. Organise training for professionals in waste operations				x		
2.22.3. Develop techniques for more efficient recycling of a wider range of waste streams				x		
2.22.4. Exchange ideas and best practices with other waste professionals, municipalities and other stakeholders				x		

2.23. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by the waste management sector to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

2.24. **Fisheries sector:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by the fisheries sector with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not recommended" and 5 being "strongly recommended".

a: 1
b: 2
c: 3
d: 4
e: 5
f: Don't Know

		a	b	c
2.24.1. Train crew members on waste regulation and practices on board ships	5			
2.24.2. Cooperate in initiatives to promote fisheries professionals as 'Guardians of the Sea', including monitoring and fishing for litter activities (collecting litter in large bags while fishing) *For more information on the Guardians of the Sea initiative, see:* ***http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/contracts_and_funding/calls_for_proposals/2013_09/index_en.htm***	4			
2.24.3. Cooperate in special trips to collect litter form identified hot spots	3			
2.24.4. Retrieve abandoned or lost fishing gear	`1			
2.24.5. Notify authorities about lost fishing gear	2			
2.24.6. Ensure adequate waste separation, minimisation and management on board ships, including adequate storage space for garbage	5			

2.25. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by the fisheries sector to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

* development of alternative design and material to replace Dolly Rope use to protect beam trawl nets.

2.26. **Shipping sector:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by the shipping sector with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1
b: 2
c: 3
d: 4
e: 5
f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.26.1. Train crew members on waste regulations and practices on board ships					x	
2.26.2. Cooperate in an efficient waste notification system				x		
2.26.3. Ensure that there are no disincentives for vessels to bring their litter ashore rather than dumping it at sea					x	
2.26.4. Ensure adequate waste separation, minimisation and management on board ships, including adequate storage space for garbage					x	

2.27. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by the shipping sector to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

* educate crew so they are aware that disposal of waste is included in waste fee in harbour.

2.28. **Port authorities:** *Below you will find a list of actions which could be undertaken by port authorities with a view to reducing the presence and impact of marine litter.*

Please assess these actions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “not recommended” and 5 being “strongly recommended”.

a: 1

b: 2

c: 3

d: 4

e: 5

f: Don't Know

	a	b	c	d	e	f
2.28.1. Apply a waste fee system aimed at a maximum delivery of waste from ships					x	
2.28.2. Apply an efficient waste notification system			x			
2.28.3. Improve the waste handling system including procedures, conditions, management of fees, payment of operators, etc.				x		
2.28.4. Strengthen the inspection regime regarding waste delivery					x	
2.28.5. Consult port users on the adequacy of port waste reception facilities				x		
2.28.6. Provide clear and transparent information about the fee system in place					x	
2.28.7. Record and monitor the amounts of ships' waste delivered in ports				x		
2.28.8. Implement systematic exchange of information between enforcement authorities					x	
2.28.9. Ensure that ports have access to facilities for off-loading and correct disposal of hazardous waste					x	
2.28.10. Provide waste disposal bins and ensure that waste is not left in locations where it can be blown into the sea					x	

2.29. Are there other actions which could be undertaken by port authorities to reduce marine litter? If so, please list these actions:

* Harmonize waste fee systems
* stimulate separated waste delivery
* Strenghten the inspection regime regadering illegal discharges
* determine certain values of waste generation on board to be used as bases for enforcement

2.30. **If you have any additional comments, please provide them in the box below (max. 1000 characters).**

(maximum 1000 characters)

Useful links

Commission Staff Working Document on Marine Litter (SWD(2012) 365 final):
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/pdf/SWD_2012_365.pdf